

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for delivering a treatment, comprising:
 - generating a personal area network associated with a patient, said personal area network transmitting a patient identifier associated with said patient;
 - retrieving treatment data associated with said patient identifier; and
 - operating a treatment device pursuant to said treatment data.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment data is stored in at least one of:
 - a system controller; said treatment device; a network device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient identifier is encrypted.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment device includes a communications device in communication with a processor for processing data received by said communications device.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment device includes a sensor, said sensor in communication with said processor.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment device is at least one of:
 - a thermometer, an IV, a blood pressure cuff, an EKG, an EEG, a fluid sensor, a food tray, a tray, an operating table, a needle, a patch, a vial, a bottle, a blade, a knife, a scalpel, a clamp, a stent, a prosthesis, a catheter, a tube, an intubator, a medicine bottle, sphygmomenometer, a toxicity screening device, a chemical sensor, a spectrometer, a respiration rate measurement device, an MRI, a CT device, and a diagnostic device.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein said communication device is adapted to send and receive data over said personal area network.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said communication device is adapted to
2 communicate with a controller via a communications network.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said controller includes a communications
2 device and a storage device each in communication with a processor, said storage
3 device storing patient data and treatment data.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 performing a verification based at least one of said patient identifier and said
3 treatment data, to determine if said treatment can be delivered.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said verification further comprises:
2 determining if said treatment data is consistent with information about said
3 patient.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said verification further comprises:
2 determining if said treatment data is consistent with accepted treatment
3 protocols.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating said treatment device further
2 comprises operating said treatment device to perform at least one of: refraining from
3 delivering full treatment; signaling an alarm; signaling an alert; not performing
4 treatment; modifying treatment; initiating an application; initiating a human
5 interaction; recording initiation of treatment; recording data; performing intermediate
6 steps; and concluding treatment.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 alerting a provider of a condition of said patient.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 communicating, via said personal area network, with a second treatment
3 device.

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1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 verifying that said treatment was properly delivered by said treatment device.
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1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
2 forwarding a confirmation to a treatment prescriber indicating that said
3 treatment data was properly delivered.
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1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein said personal area network is generated by a
2 transmitter adapted to transmit signals through a body using electrical properties of
3 said body.
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1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitter is configured as at least one
2 of: a bracelet, a necklace, a card, a ring, and a molecular tag.
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1 20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining a diagnosis of said patient prior to said operating said treatment
3 device.
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1 21. A method for delivering a treatment to a patient, comprising:
2 detecting, via a personal area network associated with said patient, a patient
3 identifier;
4 associating said patient identifier with a treatment, said treatment defined by a
5 set of treatment data;
6 determining if said treatment should be delivered to said patient.
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1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said determining further comprises:
2 retrieving patient data including medical data regarding said patient; and
3 comparing said patient data with said set of treatment data to determine if a
4 conflict exists.
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1 23. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 delivering said treatment to said patient.
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1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said delivering further comprises:
2 operating a treatment device in accordance with said treatment data, and
3 wherein said detecting is performed using said treatment device.
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1 25. The method of claim 21, wherein said treatment is selected from the group
2 consisting of: administering a shot, an oral medicine, an intravenous drip, a cut, an
3 inflation, an electrical impulse, a pacemaker, an electroshock, a catheterization,
4 insertion of a stent, and insertion of a tube.
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1 26. The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of said patient data and said
2 treatment data are stored in a device in communication with said treatment device
3 over a communications network.
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1 27. The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of said patient data and said
2 treatment data are stored in a network device in communication with said treatment
3 device over said personal area network.
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1 28. A method for delivering a treatment to a patient, comprising:
2 detecting, using a treatment device, a patient identifier, said patient identifier
3 transmitted over a personal area network associated with said patient;
4 retrieving patient information associated with said patient identifier; and
5 forwarding treatment data associated with said patient identifier to said
6 treatment device.
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1 29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
2 delivering said treatment to said patient by operating said treatment device
3 pursuant to said treatment data.
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1 30. The method of claim 28, wherein said treatment device includes a sensor
2 adapted to detect a condition associated with said patient.
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1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said treatment device is a needle, said sensor
2 is a bar code reader for reading a label of a medication, and said condition is required
3 data on said label.

1 32. A system for providing health care, comprising:
2 a personal area network for facilitating communication of data via a patient's
3 body, and
4 an intelligent device for facilitating a health care service via the
5 communication of data.

1 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the intelligent device is a treatment device.

1 34. The system of claim 32, wherein a cross-check is performed based at least on
2 the patient identifier received via the personal area network prior to initiating an
3 action.

1 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the action is selected from the group
2 consisting of refraining from action, performing treatment, signaling an alarm,
3 signaling an alert, not performing treatment, modifying treatment, initiating an
4 application, initiating a human interaction, recording initiation of treatment, recording
5 data, performing intermediate steps, and concluding treatment.

1 36. The system of claim 33, wherein the device is selected from the group
2 consisting of an IV device, a blood pressure device, an MRI, an EKG, an EEG, a
3 medicine container, a fluid control device, a pulse measuring device, a thermometer, a
4 sensor, a needle, and a patch.

1 37. A method of handling data associated with a health care patient, comprising:
2 associating a patient with a personal area network,
3 recording data associated with the patient, and
4 associating the data with a record for the patient in a database.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the data is obtained via the personal area
2 network.

1 39. The method of claim 37, further comprising providing a sensor to sense a
2 condition of the patient, wherein the sensor has a communication facility for
3 communication via the personal area network.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the sensor senses at least one of blood
2 pressure, temperature, pressure, vapor content, moisture, blood oxygen level, blood
3 content, blood alcohol content, toxicity, chemical content, respiration content, food
4 consumption, urine content, waste content, pulse, respiration rate, and electrical
5 activity.

1 41. A method of facilitating a health care service, comprising:
2 providing a processor for a personal area network, and
3 configuring the processor to facilitate communication with an intelligent
4 health care device.

1 42. A method for treating a patient, including:
2 generating a personal area network associated with said patient, said personal
3 area network generated by a transmitting device;
4 establishing communication between said transmitting device and a treatment
5 device via said personal area network; and
6 transmitting treatment data between said transmitting device and said
7 treatment device.

1 43. The method of claim 42, further comprising:
2 determining, by said transmitting device, if said treatment data is treatment
3 data associated with said patient.

1 44. The method of claim 42, further comprising:

2 determining, by said transmitting device, if said treatment data is treatment
3 data associated with said patient.

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1 45. The method of claim 42, further comprising:
2 determining if said treatment data is associated with said patient by comparing
3 a patient identifier associated with said transmitting device with a patient identifier
4 associated with said treatment data.

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1 46. The method of claim 42, further comprising:
2 determining if said treatment device is appropriate for said patient.